

Message Text

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FOR IPS AND ILA; STATE FOR CU/ARA

SUBJ: OPEN UNIVERSITY IN VENEZUELA

1. EL NACIONAL PUBLISHED HIGHLIGHTS OF AN INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. LUIS MANUEL PENALVER, IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL OPEN LEARNING UNIVERSITY. THE UNIVERSITY WILL HAVE STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. TEACHING WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY CORRESPONDENCE, RADIO, AND USE OF EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION, AS WELL AS THE UTILIZATION OF FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT THE THIRTEEN EXISTING VENEZUELAN UNIVERSITIES AND 34 OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.
 2. THE CENTER OF THIS NEW NATION-WIDE OPEN LEARNINGSYSTEM IS YET TO BE DETERMINED, BUT WILL BE LOCATED IN THE CARACAS AREA.
 3. THE MINISTER PENALVER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT 16,000 SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE OFFERED BY THE MINISTRY TO STUDENTS AT ALL LEVELS AND THAT 21 MILLION BOLIVARS WILL BE ADDITIONALLY GRANTED TO 19 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH FIND THEMSELVES IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.
 4. MARXIST NEWSPAPER PUNTO QUOTES LEFTIST STUDENT LEADERS OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY THAT "THE EDUCATIONAL REVOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE MINISTRY MEANS IDIOLOGICAL SUBJECTION AND IS A FARCE." REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE PLATON PROJECT OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL CONTROL DATA COMPANY. THE STUDENT LEADERS COMPLAIN
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THAT "IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT WOULD WEAKEN TIES

BETWEEN STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS, STIR UP STUDENT
MILITANCE, MAKE EDUCATION A PROFIT MAKING BUSINESS ON
AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL THROGH SALES OF CASSETTES AND PERMEATE
THE IDEOLOGY OF LATING AMERICAN EDUCATION."
HIGGINS

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